

MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF COUNCIL

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 19th July 1982, commencing 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black
Mr. A. Gill
Mr. B. H. Macintosh
Mr. J. Mitchell
Mr. M. Rundle
Mr. G. J. Simm
Mr. O. J. Slattery
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson

Chairman

Executive Officer

Employment Co-operative
Development Adviser

Mr. B. Greer

Apologies for absence from meeting

Mr. A. Dash
Mr. E. J. Long

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the Council meeting held 21st June 1982, having been circulated, were confirmed and adopted as a correct record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i

Minute 3.i Purchase of Photocopier

Toshiba BD 4501 purchased.
Capital costs allocated 5/13 ECDP
8/13 CFV.

3.ii

Minute 3.ii Alternate for Mr. Gill

Mr. Gill advised that the Employment Co-operatives Group has nominated Ms. Andrea Philipp, Open Channel, to attend Council meetings as an observer when he is unable to be present. Notices of meetings and minutes will be issued to both persons.

3.iii

Minute 4.vi Meeting of Trading Co-operatives

Five Trading Co-operatives were represented at a meeting in the Federation Office on 24th June 1982 which was also attended by Mr. Rolf Akeby, Co-op Trade project leader, I.L.O. Asia and Pacific Region.

3.iv

Minute 10.i(c) Visit to Brunswick Work Co-operative

Council confirmed the value obtained from its collective visit immediately prior to the meeting. Council agreed

A formal letter be sent to the Brunswick Work Co-operative recording appreciation for the time given and information provided by the staff to the Council.

It was also agreed

Appreciation of Council be recorded to Mrs. Joanne Sarlin for making the arrangements for the visit.

Council further agreed

A similar educational visit be made by the Council to Open Channel prior to the Council meeting scheduled for 20th September 1982.

3.v

Minute 10.iv Executive Officer's Paper to Dairy Co-operatives Directors' Seminar

Council directed

Copies be prepared for members of Council for discussion at the August 1982 meeting.

3.vi

Minute 11 Meeting with Minister of Agriculture

The Chairman advised this has been arranged for Tuesday, 17th August 1982 at 11 a.m.

4.

CORRESPONDENCE

4.i

Extract from Hansard 15th June 1982

Minister for Employment & Training listing 19 projects funded under Employment Co-operative Development Programme.

4.ii

Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Advising Annual Grant of \$5,000 request submitted to Treasurer for consideration of inclusion in 1982/83 Budget.

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4.iii Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Advising request for funding TV video production on Co-operatives under consideration by Treasurer with low priority.

4.iv To and from President, C.F.A.

Appreciation on retirement from office.

4.v Security Permanent Building Society

Advising of expiry of lease and increase in rental.

Council directed

The lease for the current office premises at 225 Swanston St. with Security Permanent Building Society be renewed for a further two years from 1st June 1982 with the understanding that alternative accommodation may have to be found before the expiry of the lease due to staff increase. In such event the Federation will be released from the lease without penalty.

Council noted

The rental of the office premises will be increased to \$1,200 per annum, effective from 1st June 1982.

4.vi From Ministry Employment and Training

Requesting transfer of balance of Newsletter grant to Education and Training Unit, Vocational Orientation Centre, who will henceforth produce and publish 'Co-operative Review' for Employment Co-operatives.

The Executive Officer reported the funds have been transferred, as requested, and Ministry advised.

4.vii From Emerald and District Co-operative

Advising proposed action on complaint by former member.

5. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Received from

Brunswick Italo Australian Employment Co-operative Ltd. together with Rules and relevant affiliation dues.

Council welcomed the Co-operative into membership of the Federation.

6.

FINANCIAL

The pre-audited Statement of Income and Expenditure for the financial year ending 30th June 1982, together with the Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1982 was submitted to Council

Council decided

The accounts be presented to members in a segregated tabulated form clearly identifying income and expenditure of the Employment Co-operative Development Government-funded programme and the voluntary funded programme of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria.

Council

recorded its appreciation to the Executive Officer for the results of the year's financial operations and for his detailed attention to maintaining the accounts.

7.

ANNUAL REPORT

The proposed Annual Report of the Federation for the year ended 30th June 1982, having been circulated, was discussed. Subject to certain amendments Council

authorised the printing of the report as the official report of the Federation for presentation to members.

8.

(i) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Council agreed

The minimum number of nominations required for the Conference to proceed is 50.

In the event of this minimum not being reached the Conference will be cancelled and the Annual General Meeting will be convened in the Federation Office.

All members of Council will canvas support for attendance at the Conference from all Co-operatives in their area.

(ii) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5 nominations have been received for 3 vacancies on the Council.

Mr. Greer was appointed returning officer for the election.

Formal notice of meeting issued 13th July 1982.

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(ii)

(iii) FORMATION MEETING OF CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

Council directed

- (a) *That the list of 13 Co-operatives invited to become foundation members be extended to include all Co-operatives from which current members of Council are nominated.*
- (b) *That potential members of the incorporated Federation be asked to check to ensure their Rules permit of affiliation with the Federation.*
- (c) *That a meeting of the Legislation Committee be held with the Registrar to obtain assurance on the composition, membership and election of the initial board of directors of the incorporated body.*

9. REPORTS

9.i

Community Employment Co-operative Development Programme

The Executive Officer reported a meeting of the Funding Committee was called by the Ministry, Employment and Training to receive a report on the Programme April-June 1982. The Report was very comprehensive. The meeting had been addressed by Mr. Peter Kirby, Deputy Director of the Department in charge of the Programme.

Mr. Greer reported that following submissions from the Federation to the Minister and the Minister's confirming letter to the Chairman, the Funding Committee is taking on the role of an Advisory Service for the Minister.

A Working Party from the Funding Committee has been set up to study and report to the Minister by 27th August on the system of loans as funding capital as an alternative to or in addition to grant funding. This could have implications for the Federation if a scheme is approved allocating total funding monies out of Treasury into Central Bank A/c. managed by the Federation.

The Business Advisory Unit is currently studying a proposal for a group insurance scheme on behalf of the Employment Co-operative Group.

The Business Advisory Unit is studying the feasibility of providing a metropolitan based marketing service for the group.

The development of either or both these services could require more floor space for an expanded Federation staff.

Mr. Gill reported on a successful public relations exercise at the Loch Ard Co-operative when the Minister for

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Employment and Training and the Minister for Police participated.

He reported on a successful workshop organised in Ballarat and the official opening of the Goldfields Community Radio at Harcourt by the Premier Mr. Cain on 25th July 1982.

Mr. Gill proposed communication between Council and members, particularly the Employment Co-operative Group, could be improved by issuing a brief report on deliberations after each monthly Council meeting.

Council welcomed the proposal and agreed it should be done in conjunction with the Executive Officer.

9.ii

Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

This Council met on 5th July and was attended by Messrs. Long and Rawlinson.

In addition to considering applications for Guarantees and reports on some well conducted recoveries from defaulting Co-operatives, the meeting was informed that the Minister has established a Legislative Review Committee to advise him on legislation administered by him including the Co-operation Act 1981.

Council agreed

The Federation Legislation Committee should meet to consider matters required for amendment of the Co-operation Act. Employment Co-operatives to be invited to submit matters of legislative changes required for consideration of the Legislative Committee.

The Advisory Council has ruled that there is no restriction in the Co-operation Act or in the general law in the form a bonus or rebate may take. Therefore, that part of the surplus arising from the business of Co-operatives incorporated under the Co-operation Act, which the Board directs be paid to members by way of bonus or rebate based on the business done by members with their Co-operative, may be paid partly or wholly in the form of bonus shares or bonus debentures.

Council directed

(a) *a similar ruling relating to payment of dividend (interest or share capital) be obtained;*

(b) *all Federation members be advised of this ruling.*

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9.iii

Co-operative Federation of Australia

(a)

Mr. Slattery reported that the Executive of the Co-operative Federation of Australia have confirmed an extension of the agreement with the Co-operative Federation of Victoria for continued sharing of secretariat and staff resources to 31st December 1982. This will be funded by a half year's subscription based on last year's rates from the Federations of New South Wales, Western Australia and Victoria, the balance of costs to be met from accumulated funds.

(b)

On the subject of studies into establishment of a Co-operative Bank he reported that the Steering Committee had met with national representatives of

The Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies

The Australian Federation of Credit Unions Ltd.

and Mr. Clive Little of Deloitte, Haskins & Sells in Melbourne on 9th July 1982.

A Working Party comprising two representatives from the C.F.A. and each of the other two groups was agreed to determine the common objectives of each group and if sufficient common levels are identified to proceed with setting a timetable of priority for future developmental action.

The first meeting of the Working Party has been set for 27th August.

(c)

On the subject of restructuring of the Federation, the Steering Committee recommended a joint meeting of the Councils of the Co-operative Federation of New South Wales and Victoria with invited members of the Queensland and Western Australian Federations as an alternative to a national workshop of invited Co-operatives to discuss the proposals.

Mr. Slattery expressed disappointment that the background paper to the restructuring proposal prepared by the Executive Officer in early June 1982 has not been circulated by the Steering Committee to all members of all State Federation Councils.

Council

(i) expressed concern at the lack of progress and the uncertainty of continued joint operations between the C.F.A. and C.F.V;

(ii) requested the C.F.A. background paper be circulated to each member C.F.V. Council;

(iii) request the Steering Committee to prepare a

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report on its achievements and outstanding matters for agreement;

(iv) request the Council of the C.F.A. to meet to (a) receive a report from the Steering Committee -

(b) discuss progress on the Co-operative Bank Study developments -

(c) consider progress made on proposals to restructure the C.F.A. and make firm decisions on the future course of action

(v) requested the meeting of Council C.F.A. be called before the end of August 1982.

9.iv

Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported discussions have been held with staff of Footscray Technical College with a view to establishing two certificated courses in their Business Studies Programme concerned with

- (i) Starting and managing a Co-operative Business
- (ii) Co-operative Business Management

Council directed

The discussions be continued with the objective of achieving the implementation of the proposal.

Mr. Rawlinson requested leave of absence from Federation duties from 18th October to 11th December to include participation in the meeting of the Central Council International Co-operative Alliance, to be held in Rome from Friday, 22nd October to Thursday, 28th October inclusive representing the Co-operative Federation of Australia.

Council

authorised the leave of absence as requested.

10.

OTHER BUSINESS

Regional Meeting

Council agreed

a meeting of Co-operatives in the North East and Goulburn Valley Region should be arranged in Shepparton in the first week of October 1982.

11.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council was scheduled for Tuesday, 10th August 1982, to immediately follow the closure of the Formation meeting of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd.

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12. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.40 p.m.

W. Staelen 10-8-82